



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Highways & Local Programs Division

History and Purpose

Highways & Local Programs (H&LP), on behalf of Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), has been serving the local agencies of Washington State for over 60 years. Under WSDOT's stewardship agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), H&LP serves as the steward of the local agency federal aid program by administering and managing federal funds from project development through construction administration. H&LP provides assistance to cities, counties, ports, tribal governments, transit, metropolitan planning and regional planning organizations in obtaining federal and state grant funds to build and improve local transportation systems. H&LP, on behalf of the Secretary of WSDOT, is responsible for preparing and submitting the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to FHWA, without which, no federal project would be authorized. In addition, H&LP provides federal compliance oversight on federally funded projects, technical assistance and training, and promotes cooperative planning and partnerships between WSDOT and local agencies. H&LP is a statewide organization with Local Programs staff located in all six WSDOT regions and in headquarters.



Highways & Local Programs Division

Services to Local Agencies

Capital Program Funding Administration

- Manages project development and authorizes projects funded by multiple federal-aid programs and/or state funded grant programs.
- Develops guidelines and procedures and manages the process enabling local agencies to submit projects to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- Accountable for administering federal and state funds to local agencies.

Community Economic Partnerships

- Promotes cooperative planning and partnerships.
- Supports initiatives in design concepts and applications.
- Encourages economic development policies and strategies.
- Addresses safety and mobility of pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Sponsors community context sensitive design.
- Advances scenic byway, tourism and traveler services.

Technical Support

- Provides training and technical support to local agencies.
- Provides technical publications, videos and the quarterly technical digest, the "WST2."
- Translates state-of-the-art technology into practical applications for local agency transportation personnel.
- Provides technical support for Pavement and Safety Management Systems, Geographic Information and Global Positioning Systems.

Project Compliance

- Accountable for administering the Certification Acceptance Program.
- Reviews and acts on design deviation requests, plans and project documents.
- Performs project management reviews.
- Participates in selecting local agency bridges for replacement.
- Guides local agencies in interpreting and applying environmental laws and regulations.

Regional Local Agency Services and Support

- Serves as direct link with local agencies and partners such as tribal governments, ports and transit agencies.
- Manages federal and state funds in a manner that allows the agencies to be successful in their transportation endeavors.
- Assists agencies in compliance with program requirements.
- Guides, counsels and collaborates with local agency public works staff, engineering staff and elected officials on project scoping, funding, design, environmental documentation, construction and project closures.
- Ensures local agency representation on transportation issues with WSDOT.

Federal-Aid Programs

Highways & Local Programs Division

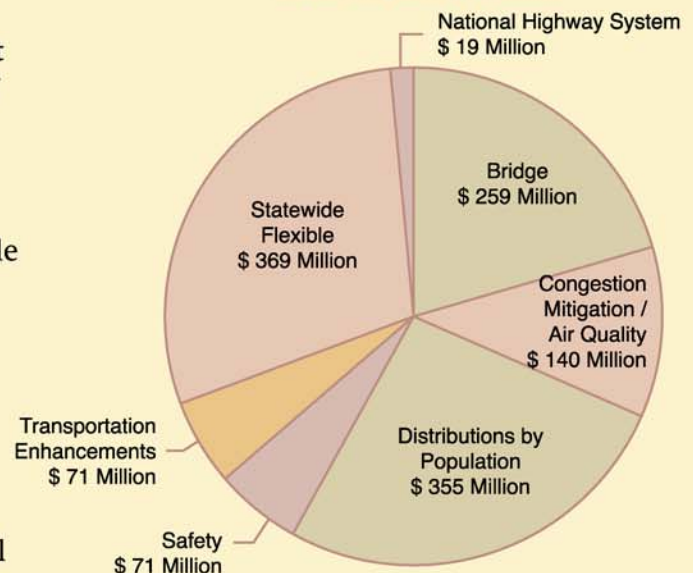
Under the Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and its predecessor act, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 (ISTEA), local agencies have received increased federal assistance over prior transportation programs.

These federal funds are distributed to local agencies through several Federal grant programs which include:

- National Highway System
- Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
- Surface Transportation Program (STP)
 - Distribution by Population
- Safety
- Transportation Enhancements
- Surface Transportation Program-Flexible
 - Competitive
 - Rural Economic Vitality (REV)
 - Distribution by Population
- Emergency Relief

Each of these programs may have different match ratios and can be used for only those purposes described in the federal project prospectus. In addition, local agencies share in the National discretionary programs such as the Scenic Byway and Public Land Discretionary programs. Approximately \$275 million in federal funds is distributed to local agencies each biennium through these programs.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) Local Agency Funds



Source: WSDOT H&LP Program Management



1999-2001 Biennium Federal Expenditures by WSDOT Region

Percentage of expenditures by region

Headquarters	2%
Northwest	38%
North Central	3%
Olympic	18%
Southwest	18%
South Central	9%
Eastern	11%

Source: WSDOT Financial Information Retrieval Systems

State Funded Grant Programs and Local Agency Transportation Needs

Highways & Local Programs Division

In addition to administering Federal Aid to local agencies, past Legislatures have relied upon Highways & Local Programs to manage specific state funded grant programs for local agencies. Since over two-thirds of the total state centerline miles are owned by local agencies, grant programs have been designed specifically to address congestion, pavement preservation and safety on these miles with the goal of providing the traveling public a seamless transportation system. These widely popular programs include the City and County Corridor Congestion Relief Program, the School Safety Enhancements Program, the Main Street Pavement Preservation Program, and the Rural Economic Vitality Program.

City and County Corridor Congestion Relief Program

- Provides funding for congested urban corridors.
- 9 projects funded – \$25 million
- Unmet need – \$113 million

School Safety Enhancements Program

- Provides funding for capital projects for traffic and pedestrian safety improvements near schools.
- 70 projects funded – \$7 million
- Unmet need due to failure of Referendum 51 – \$15 million

Main Street Pavement Preservation Program

- Provides funding to establish an on-going pavement maintenance program, using a pavement management system designed to maintain the condition of streets in the State's small cities.
- 143 projects funded – \$9.1 million
- Unmet need due to failure of Referendum 51 – \$25 million

Rural Economic Vitality Program

- Provides funding for transportation capital investments that benefit economic development in rural areas.
- Unmet need due to failure of Referendum 51 – \$30 million.

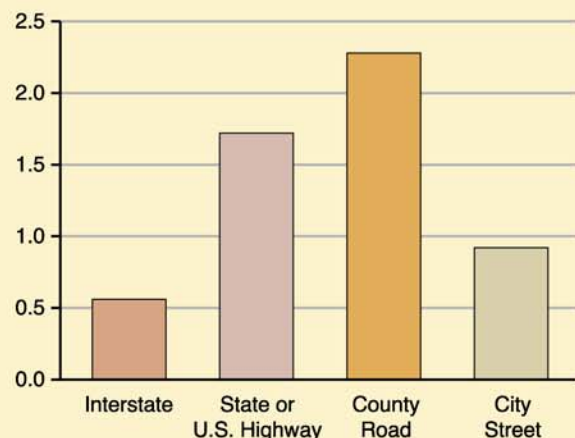
Fatalities on Local Roadways

- The majority of fatalities in Washington occur on rural roadways of which one-third of the roadways are locally owned.
- More rural roads are being used as commuter routes, which were not designed to carry high traffic and heavy trucks.
- A new grant program is needed to provide low-cost safety enhancements on rural roads using Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Emergency Services.
- Unmet need over 10 years – \$100 million.



Fatalities on Local Roadways

Washington Traffic Deaths: 1993-2000
By Road Class
Deaths per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled



Source: WSDOT Traffic Operations

Accomplishments

Highways & Local Programs Division

- H&LP has managed over 2,200 projects for our 451 local agencies over the last six years.
- H&LP delegates numerous project decisions to qualified agencies under the Certification Acceptance process.
- H&LP provided nearly 168,500 hours of low-cost training and technical assistance to local agency personnel over the past six years.
- H&LP employs electronic data communication and web-based project applications wherever possible.



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